

Welcome to Beal Early Childhood Center

News on the Beal Front: **November 7, 2016**

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1. A note from the Principal

One of Shrewsbury's Strategic Priorities is to provide 50,000 hours of student community service during the 2012-2016 time period. Although this sounds like a tall task, the district is on pace to surpass this goal by a considerable number of service hours. The majority of these hours are logged by middle and high school students and dedicated staff, who work diligently to increase value to the community through focused service. However, our civic education begins much earlier than middle school. At Beal, we embed into our daily curricula the foundations for service, citizenship, and responsibility to the community with opportunities throughout the year to put this learning into action. This was evident this past Saturday as the Shrewsbury community came together to clean the grounds at Beal. If you were standing in the back parking lot from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m., you would have seen students, parents, and staff from Beal and Sherwood Middle School working together to prune, weed, rake, and mulch our grounds. The property looks beautiful, and could not have been possible without the support of Carol Virzi and her dedicated group of Sherwood Green Team volunteers. Thank you to all who participated in cleaning the grounds and exemplifying the power of community. I wish everyone the best tomorrow during Parent Conferences and Election Tuesday. Please reach out to your classroom teacher if you have questions about your conference.

Sincerely,

Chris Girardi

Phone: (508) 841-8865

Email: cgirardi@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

2. Veteran's Day ceremony

There is no school this Friday, November 11, 2016, as we celebrate Veteran's Day. There will be a dedication open to the public beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the World War I memorial in front of Beal to pay respects to those who have served our country. This memorial sits in the same location that the original 1924 World War I memorial sat for decades, but was taken down due to the deterioration of the foundation and materials over time. The new memorial, completed in 2013, strategically sits in front of the school named after Howard Beal, a World War I physician from Shrewsbury who was killed in action serving his country. Beal School, which has educated many students at various grade levels since 1922, has paralleled the monument outside and its namesake by promoting evolving skills and knowledge, civic responsibility, and the democratic process.

3. Kindergarten 2017-2018

If you have a child that will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2017 (must be 5 years old by August 31, 2017), please send an email to Diane Abbott, our Registrar with your child's information so she can check that your child is on the incoming kindergarten database. Her email address is dabbott@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Information required:

Student First Name

Student Last Name

Date of Birth

Gender

Address

Phone Number

Parent's Name

Parent's Email

Address

Name of preschool child is attending (if applicable)

For more information, please visit our website: <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov>. Click on Student Registration/ Click on Kindergarten Information 2017-2018.

4. Post Halloween Candy Drive

Spooked by thoughts of too much candy in the house post Halloween? Turn in your extra candy to the Beal School between November 3rd and November 10th and help out a good cause! All candy will be donated to Veterans Inc. of Worcester who is dedicated to helping veterans and their families. The collection box can be found outside the main office in the school.

5. Meal Magic Program

The Food Service Department across the district will be implementing a new, computerized point-of-sale system in our cafeterias. This *Meal Magic* program will become active at Beal on Tuesday, November 29th. Information about the program will be provided in the weeks leading up to implementation.

6. Dr. Elizabeth Englander presentation at Oak Middle School

Last week, Oak Middle School was fortunate to host an evening program with Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Director and Founder of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University. Dr. Englander presented her latest research on bullying, cyberbullying, and teenagers' use of social media. Some of the most interesting findings she presented was the many popular myths surrounding these issues. Central to these myths is the overuse of the term bullying. Her research shows that most conflict among children and teens is actually relational aggression as opposed bullying. The [Ophelia Project](#) website explains the difference. "Aggression is an isolated event where a person intentionally harms another. Bullying involves more - specifically, repetition. Being tripped and laughed at on the school bus is aggression. However, if a student is tripped on the bus every day, humiliated on multiple occasions, and begins to feel isolated and powerless as a result, then this is bullying." Recognizing the difference, according to Dr. Englander, can help parents and schools to protect children and respond appropriately when these conflict occur. In addition, Dr. Englander identified several steps parents can take to mitigate the negative impact of these conflicts and helped parents understand what they can expect from schools in response to these behaviors. Many thanks to the Shrewsbury Media Connection for filming this presentation. Dr. Englander's presentation can be viewed on Shrewsbury Media Connection's Video Library at your convenience by clicking [HERE](#) or on channel 29/329 at the following times: Saturdays: 7am & 10am, Sundays: 5am, Tuesdays: 1:30pm.

7. News From the Nurse

I've recently learned that many of our Beal friends are coming to school with cough drops in their pockets, to ease their scratchy or sore throats. It is our practice not to allow these and to offer an extra drink of water instead. This is not district protocol, but one we feel necessary here at Beal. In a room full of social and active five and six year old's, there is an increased risk of choking. This practice applies to the bus as well, remembering that most bus rides are bumpy and the bus drivers are busy trying to see that everyone stays safe, while keeping their eyes and minds on the road. For these reasons, I ask that you do not send cough drops with your children on school days. Thank you for your understanding

Jill Wensky

Beal Nurse

508-841-8870

8. Important dates

Tuesday, November 8th- **No school**- Parent Conferences/ Election Day

Friday, November 11th- Veteran's Day- **No school**

Tuesday, November 15th- Beal PTO Meeting- 6:30 p.m. in the Beal Gymnasium (child care provided)

Wednesday, November 23-Friday, November 25- Thanksgiving Break- **No school**

Tuesday, December 6th- Early Release Day for staff professional development

Monday, December 26th-Monday, January 2nd- December Vacation- **No school**